DOCUMENT RESUME

ED 065 224 RC 006 286

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TITLE	Selected Characteristics of Persons and Families of Mexican, Puerto Rican, and Other Spanish Origin: March 1971. Population Characteristics: Current Population Reports.
INSTITUTION	Bureau of the Census (DOC), Suitland, Md.
REPORT NO	P-20-224
PUB DATE	Oct 71
NOTE	23p.
AVAILABLE FROM	Superintendent of Documents, U.S. Government Printing Office, Washington, D.C. 20402 ($0.20)
EDRS PRICE	MF-$0.65 HC-$3.29
DESCRIPTORS	Caucasians; *Census Figures; *Data Collection; *Ethnic Groups; *Mexican Americans; *Negroes; Puerto Ricans; Reports; Spanish Americans; Statistical Data; *Tables (Data)

ABSTRACT

Data on a variety of social and economic characteristics for persons and families of Mexican, Puerto Rican, and other Spanish origins and comparative data for the total white and Negro population are presented in this report. Tables contain information concerning population size, income, employment, education, and the family. It was determined that about 9 million persons identified themselves as being of Spanish origin in March 1971, including 5 million who were of Mexican origin and about 1 1/2 million who identified themselves as of Puerto Rican origin. The median family income in 1970 for all families of Spanish origin was lower than the median income for all white families but higher than that for black families. Unemployment rates were higher for persons of Spanish origin than the national average and about the same as the rate for men of Negro and other races. Among persons 25 to 29 years old, 48% of persons of Spanish origin had graduated from high school compared to 58% of Negroes and 80% of all whites. One-third of the Negro and Puerto Rican families had a female head. (HBC)

A UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE PUBLICATION

Series P-20, No. 224
October 1971

ED 065224

CURRENT POPULATION REPORTS

Population Characteristics

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SELECTED CHARACTERISTICS OF PERSONS AND FAMILIES OF MEXICAN, PUERTO RICAN, AND OTHER SPANISH ORIGIN: MARCH 1971

- Population Size
- Income
- Employment
- Education
- Family

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ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

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SUGGESTED CITATION

U.S. Bureau of the Census, Current Population Reports, Series P-20, No. 224, "Selected Characteristics of Persons and Families of Mexican, Puerto Rican, and Other Spanish Origin: March 1971," U.S. Government Printing Office, Washington, D.C., 1971.

For sale by the Superintendent of Documents, U.S. Government Printing Office, Washington, D.C. 20402, 20 cents. Current Population Reports issued in Series P–20, P–23, P–25, P–26, P–27, P–28 (summaries only), P–60, and P–65 are sold as a single consolidated subscription at $14.00 per year, $3.50 additional for foreign mailing.

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SELECTED CHARACTERISTICS OF PERSONS AND FAMILIES OF MEXICAN, PUERTO RICAN, AND OTHER SPANISH ORIGIN: MARCH 1971

Introduction

This report presents data on a variety of social and economic characteristics for persons and families of Mexican, Puerto Rican, and other Spanish origin covered in the March 1971 Current Population Survey. Comparative data for the total white and the Negro population are also presented. Detailed reports on the characteristics of persons by ethnic origin will be published later.

Population size. About 9 million persons identified themselves as being of Spanish origin in March 1971, including 5 million who were of Mexican origin and about 1-1/2 million who identified themselves as of Puerto Rican origin.[1] The Spanish origin population was younger than the total population of the United States--about 46 percent of persons of Spanish origin were under 18 years of age compared to about 35 percent of the total population. Among persons of Mexican origin, about half were under 18 years of age.

Income. The median family income in 1970 for all families of Spanish origin ($7,330) was lower than the median income for all white families ($10,240) but higher than that for black families ($6,280). However, there was no detectable difference in median incomes between Negro families and families of Spanish origin in which the head was a year-round full-time worker.

The median income for men of Spanish origin was $6,200--about $1,200 greater than the median for Negro men and about $2,000 less than the median for all white men. The median income for women of Spanish origin was about $2,600, not significantly different from the income of all white women, but higher than the median of $2,200 for black women.

About one of every four persons of Spanish origin was below the low-income level in 1970, as compared to one out of ten for all whites and one out of three for Negroes. Persons of Spanish origin made up about 9 percent of all persons classified as low-income and accounted for about 32 percent of all low-income persons in five Southwestern States (Arizona, California, Colorado, New Mexico, and Texas). The poverty rate for persons of Spanish origin in the Southwest was 28 percent compared with 19 percent for persons of Spanish origin in the remainder of the United States.

Employment. Labor force participation rates for men of Spanish origin were not significantly different from those of the total male population. Women of Spanish origin, however, were less likely to be in the labor force than were white women or women of Negro and other races. Unemployment rates were higher for persons of Spanish origin than the national average and about the same as the rate for men of Negro and other races. Men of Spanish origin and men of Negro and other races were less likely to be working in white-collar occupations than were all white men. About the same proportion of men of Spanish origin and men of Negro and other races were employed in white-collar and blue-collar occupations in 1971.

Education. About one of every five adults (25 years old and over) of Spanish origin had completed less than 5 years of school, compared with about one of every 25 for all white persons. Among persons 25 to 29 years old, high school graduation was less common among persons of Spanish origin than among Negroes or whites--48 percent of persons of Spanish origin had graduated from high school compared to 58 percent of Negroes and 80 percent of all whites.

Family. Families of Mexican origin tend to be larger than Negro or white familes. Whereas about 2 percent of all families had six or more children, 8 percent of the families headed by a person of Mexican origin had families this large. Families with heads of Spanish origin were more likely than all white families, but less likely than Negro

[1] See "Notes" for a description of the ethnic and racial classification method.

families, to have relatives other than the head, wife, or their children living in the household.

Men of Mexican and Puerto Rican origin were less likely to be divorced than were Negro or white men. Divorce was also less likely among white women and women of Mexican origin than among Negro women.

Twelve percent of the families with heads of Mexican origin had a woman as the head; this was about the same as for all families in the United States. However, one-third of the Negro and Puerto Rican families had a female head.

Notes

Data on persons of Spanish origin in November 1969 were published in Current Population Reports, Series P-20, No. 213, "Persons of Spanish Origin in the United States: November 1969" and No. 220, "Ethnic Origin and Educational Attainment: November 1969." Statistics on characteristics of persons and families are published regularly in Series P-20 of the Current Population Reports and income statistics are published in Series P-60. Data on employment characteristics are published monthly by the Department of Labor in Employment and Earnings.

The term "race" used in this report refers to the division of the population into three groups: white, Negro, and other races. The group designated as "other races" consists of Indians, Japanese, Chinese, and other nonwhite races. The racial classification was made for the most part by the enumerator on the basis of observation.

The information in this report on ethnic origin or descen. was obtained from responses to the following question:

What is ...'s origin or descent? (Show Flash Card or read list)

- o German
- o Italian
- o Irish
- o French
- o Polish
- o Russian
- o English, Scot, Welsh
- o Mexicano, Chicano
- o Puerto Rican
- o Cuban
- o Central or So. American
- o Other Spanish
- o Negro
- o Other
- o Don't know

About 60 percent of the United States population identified themselves as having a single ethnic origin based on the above list. A large number of persons with multiple ethnic backgrounds may have checked "other" or "don't know" in this list and were therefore not identified with any of the categories shown. In a previous study of ethnic origin conducted in the November 1969 Current Population Survey, somewhat greater emphasis was placed on the Spanish origin items by presenting the five types of Spanish origin as a single question separate from other ethnic origins.[2] The lack of emphasis on the items for Spanish origin in the present study may account, in part, for some of the apparent differences in estimates of the groups of Spanish origin between these surveys.

Persons of Spanish origin were considered to be persons who chose Mexicano, Chicano, Puerto Rican, Cuban, Central or South American, or other Spanish descent. They may be of any race but 97 percent of total persons of Spanish origin, 99 percent of persons of Mexican origin, and 96 percent of persons of Puerto Rican origin were reported as white. Thus, data shown for the white and the Negro population include persons of Spanish origin just as data shown for the Spanish population include persons reported as white or Negro and other races.

Data are shown in this report for "Negro" and "other races" or for the "Negro" population separately. "Negro and other races" describes persons of all races other than white. In both text and tables the term "Negro" is used only when the relevant data are available exclusively for Negroes. The term "Negro and other races" is used whenever data for Negroes alone are not available over the period of time shown. Generally, statistics for the national population of Negro and other races reflect the condition of the Negro population, since about 90 percent of the population of Negro and other races is Negro.

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[2]See Series P-20, No. 213, Persons of Spanish Origin in the United States and No. 220, Ethnic Origin and Educational Attainment: November 1969 for a discussion of the procedures used in November 1969.

There were approximately 9 million persons of Spanish origin in the United States in March 1971, including 5 million who were of Mexican origin. Persons of Spanish origin comprised about 4.4 percent of the population of the United States. An estimated 31 million persons, or about 15 percent of the total population, identified themselves as of English, Scottish, or Welsh origin or descent; another 26 million, or about 13 percent of the total identified themselves as of German origin.

Table 1. United States Population by Race, Ethnic Origin, and Sex: March 1971

(Numbers in thousands. Noninstitutional population)

Race and ethnic origin	Total	Male	Female	Percent distribution		
				Total	Male	Female
Total	202,848	98,420	104,428	100.0	100.0	100.0
RACE						
White	177,626	86,420	91,206	87.6	87.8	87.3
Negro	22,810	10,795	12,015	11.2	11.0	11.5
Other races	2,412	1,205	1,207	1.2	1.2	1.2
ETHNIC ORIGIN						
English, Scotch, Welsh	31,006	14,852	16,154	15.3	15.1	15.5
French	5,189	2,509	2,679	2.6	2.5	2.6
German	25,661	12,854	12,806	12.7	13.1	12.3
Irish	16,325	7,706	8,619	8.0	7.8	8.3
Italian	8,733	4,351	4,381	4.3	4.4	4.2
Polish	4,941	2,444	2,497	2.4	2.5	2.4
Russian	2,132	1,038	1,094	1.1	1.1	1.0
Spanish origin	8,956	4,419	4,539	4.4	4.5	4.3
Central or South American	501	235	267	0.2	0.2	0.3
Cuban	626	313	313	0.3	0.3	0.3
Mexican	5,023	2,562	2,461	2.5	2.6	2.4
Puerto Rican	1,450	655	795	0.7	0.7	0.7
Other Spanish origin	1,356	654	703	0.7	0.7	0.7
Other ethnic origin[1]	84,689	40,655	44,035	41.7	41.3	42.2
Not reported	15,216	7,593	7,623	7.5	7.7	7.3

[1]Includes about 20 million Negroes, as well as many persons reporting more than one origin.

The median age for persons of Mexican origin was about 3 years lower than for Negroes and about 10 years lower than for the total white population. About half of the persons of Mexican origin were under 18 years of age as compared with about one-third of the white population. About 3 percent of persons of Mexican origin were 65 years old or over as compared to 10 percent of the white population.

Table 2. Age Distribution by Ethnic Origin: March 1971

(Numbers in thousands. Noninstitutional population)

Age	Total population			Persons of Spanish origin		
	All races[1]	White[2]	Negro	Total[3]	Mexican	Puerto Rican
Total	202,854	177,626	22,810	8,956	5,023	1,450
Percent	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Under 5 years old	8.8	8.3	12.1	12.9	13.6	14.7
5 to 9 years old	9.9	9.5	13.0	14.2	15.1	17.0
10 to 17 years old	16.0	15.7	18.9	18.8	20.4	16.9
18 and 19 years old	3.5	3.5	3.9	3.6	4.1	3.0
20 to 24 years old	8.1	8.1	8.4	7.9	7.7	9.0
25 to 34 years old	12.5	12.6	11.6	14.4	13.6	15.9
35 to 44 years old	11.1	11.3	10.0	11.7	11.0	10.3
45 to 54 years old	11.5	11.8	9.2	8.5	7.9	5.9
55 to 64 years old	9.1	9.4	6.7	4.4	3.4	4.3
65 years old and over	9.5	10.0	6.2	3.5	3.3	3.0
Median age	27.7	28.6	21.3	20.3	18.5	19.0
Males, 18 years and over	62,571	56,085	5,782	2,301	1,264	324
Females, 18 years and over	69,806	62,076	7,004	2,545	1,295	421

[1]Includes persons of "other races," not shown separately.

[2]Includes almost all persons reporting Spanish origin. About 97 percent of persons of Spanish origin, about 99 percent of persons of Mexican origin, and 96 percent of persons of Puerto Rican origin were classified white in this survey.

[3]Includes persons of Central or South American, Cuban, and other Spanish origin, not shown separately.

In 1970, the median income for families of Mexican origin ($7,100) was lower than the median income for all white families ($10,200) and higher than the median income for Negro families ($6,300). However, much of the difference between median family income of families of Mexican origin and Negro families was due to greater work experience of family heads of Mexican origin. Among families in which the head was a year-round full-time worker, there was no detectable difference in median incomes between Negro families and families of Mexican origin.

Table 3. Median Family Income in 1970, by Age of Head and Ethnic Origin: March 1971

Age of head	Total population			Spanish origin	
	All races[1]	White[2]	Negro	Total[3]	Mexican
Total	$9,867	$10,236	$6,279	$7,334	$7,117
14 to 24 years old	7,037	7,294	5,013	5,697	5,534
25 to 34 years old	9,853	10,187	6,605	7,324	7,567
35 to 44 years old	11,410	11,790	7,569	8,345	8,058
45 to 54 years old	12,121	12,626	7,357	8,146	7,491
55 to 64 years old	10,381	10,737	6,438	7,482	7,997
65 years old and over	5,053	5,263	3,282	3,756	(B)
Head year-round, full-time worker:					
Median family income	$11,804	$12,016	$8,880	$9,309	$8,946
Percent of all families	64.1	65.5	51.4	57.4	57.0

B Base less than 75,000.

[1]Includes persons of "other races," not shown separately.

[2]Includes almost all persons reporting Spanish origin. About 97 percent of persons of Spanish origin, about 99 percent of persons of Mexican origin, and 96 percent of persons of Puerto Rican origin were classified white in this survey.

[3]Includes persons of Central or South American, Cuban, and other Spanish origin, not shown separately.

Note: The following groups were not shown separately by age because of small sample size: Puerto Rican, Cuban, Central South American, and other Spanish. Median earnings for all families and families with head working year-round, full-time is shown below by origin:

Ethnic origin	All families	Head worked year-round, full-time
Cuban	$8,387	$9,546
Puerto Rican	5,975	8,829
Other Spanish (including Central and South American)	8,774	10,582

The median income for men of Mexican origin was $6,000, about $1,000 higher than for Negro men and about $2,200 lower than for all whites. The median income for women of Mexican origin was about $2,200, not significantly different from the incomes of Negro women but lower than the median of $2,700 for all white women.

Table 4. Income in 1970 of Persons 25 Years Old and Over, by Sex and Ethnic Origin: March 1971

(Numbers in thousands)

Income and sex	Total population			Spanish origin		
	All races[1]	White[2]	Negro	Total[3]	Mexican	Puerto Rican
MALE						
Persons with income.....	50,888	45,937	4,382	1,796	977	228
Percent.....	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Less than $3,000.....	15.2	14.0	28.1	17.2	19.2	15.4
$3,000 to $5,999.....	19.3	18.2	31.9	30.3	30.5	36.4
$6,000 to $9,999.....	31.7	32.0	29.6	35.1	36.2	34.6
$10,000 and over.....	33.5	35.9	10.4	17.3	14.0	14.0
Median income.....	$7,891	$8,224	$5,041	$6,222	$6,002	$5,879
FEMALE						
Persons with income.....	39,160	34,272	4,492	1,183	538	207
Percent.....	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Less than $3,000.....	54.2	53.5	60.3	54.5	61.9	47.3
$3,000 to $5,999.....	27.4	27.4	27.2	35.2	31.6	46.9
$6,000 to $9,999.....	14.4	14.9	10.4	7.9	5.8	5.3
$10,000 and over.....	4.0	4.2	2.3	2.4	0.9	-
Median income.....	$2,595	$2,665	$2,244	$2,625	$2,204	$3,115

- Represents zero.

[1] Includes persons of "other races," not shown separately.

[2] Includes almost all persons reporting Spanish origin. About 97 percent of persons of Spanish origin, about 99 percent of persons of Mexican origin, and 96 percent of persons of Puerto Rican origin were classified white in this survey.

[3] Includes persons of Central or South American, Cuban, and other Spanish origin, not shown separately.

In 1970, 2.2 million persons of Spanish origin were below the low-income level. Two-thirds of the poor persons of Spanish origin were of Mexican descent and another one-fifth were of Puerto Rican descent. Persons of Spanish origin represented about 4 percent of all persons in the United States, but about 9 percent of the low-income population. About one of every four persons of Spanish origin was below the low-income level in 1970, as compared to one out of ten for all whites and one out of three for Negroes. About one-third of the low-income Spanish origin population were in households with a woman as the head; among Negroes the comparable proportion was 56 percent.

Table 5. Persons Below the Low-Income Level in 1970, by Sex and Ethnic Origin of Head: March 1971

(Numbers in thousands)

Persons below the low-income level and sex of head	Total population			Spanish origin		
	All races[1]	White[2]	Negro	Total[3]	Mexican	Puerto Rican
All persons.....	25,522	17,480	7,650	2,177	1,407	424
In families with male head and male unrelated individuals.....	14,310	10,667	3,362	1,430	1,003	207
In families with female head and female unrelated individuals....	11,212	6,813	4,288	746	404	218
PERCENT BELOW LOW-INCOME LEVEL						
All persons.....	12.6	9.9	33.6	24.3	28.0	29.2
In families with male head and male unrelated individuals.....	8.3	6.8	21.7	19.2	22.9	20.9
In families with female head and female unrelated individuals....	38.4	31.5	59.0	50.0	62.4	47.5

Note: The low-income concept used in this report, formerly called the poverty level, classifies families and unrelated individuals as being above or below the low-income level, using cutoffs adjusted to take account of such factors as family size, sex and age of family head, number of children, and farm-nonfarm residence. In 1970, the low-income thresholds ranged from about $1,950 for an unrelated individual to $6,470 for a family of seven or more persons. The tnreshold for a nonfarm family of four was $3,968.

[1]Includes persons of "other races," not shown separately.

[2]Includes almost all persons reporting Spanish origin. About 97 percent of persons of Spanish origin, about 99 percent of persons of Mexican origin, and 96 percent of persons of Puerto Rican origin were classified white in this survey.

[3]Includes persons of Central or South American, Cuban, and other Spanish origin, not shown separately.

Less than one-fifth of the total low-income population resided in five Southwestern States. Yet about two-thirds of the poor persons of Spanish origin lived in this part of the country. They accounted for about 32 percent of all low-income persons in this area. The poverty rate for persons of Spanish origin in the Southwest was 28 percent as compared to 19 percent in the remainder of the United States.

Persons of Cuban origin accounted for about 4 percent of the total low-income population of Spanish origin in 1970, and their poverty rate was 14 percent as compared to 28 percent for persons of Mexican origin.

Table 6. Persons Below the Low-Income Level in 1970, by Ethnic Origin of Head, for the United States and Five Southwestern States: March 1971

(Numbers in thousands)

Ethnic origin	United States		Five Southwestern States[1]		Remainder of United States	
	Number below low-income level	Percent below low-income level	Number below low-income level	Percent below low-income level	Number below low-income level	Percent below low-income level
All persons[2]	25,522	12.6	4,608	12.9	20,914	12.5
White[3]	17,480	9.9	3,626	11.3	13,854	9.5
Negro	7,650	33.6	852	29.8	6,798	34.2
Spanish origin	2,177	24.3	1,481	27.7	696	19.3
Mexican	1,407	28.0	1,283	29.4	124	18.6
Puerto Rican	424	29.2	13	(B)	411	29.2
Cuban	86	13.7	12	(B)	74	13.2
Other[4]	260	14.0	174	19.8	86	8.8

B Base less than 75,000.

[1]Arizona, California, Colorado, New Mexico, and Texas.

[2]Includes persons of "other races," not shown separately.

[3]Includes almost all persons reporting Spanish origin. About 97 percent of persons of Spanish origin, about 99 percent of persons of Mexican origin, and 96 percent of persons of Puerto Rican origin were classified white in this survey.

[4]Includes persons of Central or South American and other Spanish origin.

Labor force participation rates for men of Spanish origin were slightly higher than the rates for Negro and other races but not significantly different from the rates for all whites. Women of Spanish origin were less likely to be in the labor force than were white women or women of Negro and other races.

Table 7. Labor Force Participation of Persons 16 to 64 Years Old, by Age, Sex, and Ethnic Origin: March 1971

(Noninstitutional population)

Age and sex	Total population			Spanish origin		
	All races[1]	White[2]	Negro and other races	Total[3]	Mexican	Puerto Rican
MALE						
Total, 16 to 64 years old..	86.4	87.1	80.6	85.4	85.4	78.2
16 to 24 years old.....	68.6	69.4	63.3	67.9	66.1	68.5
25 to 44 years old.....	96.3	96.8	92.5	94.1	95.6	85.0
45 to 64 years old.....	89.3	90.0	83.5	88.2	88.5	(B)
FEMALE						
Total, 16 to 64 years old..	49.0	48.5	53.0	39.4	36.4	29.1
16 to 24 years old.....	48.7	49.6	42.6	36.0	35.5	34.2
25 to 44 years old.....	48.8	47.1	60.9	40.8	38.0	22.3
45 to 64 years old.....	49.5	49.2	52.3	40.7	34.3	38.3

B Base less than 75,000.

[1]Includes persons of "other races," not shown separately.

[2]Includes almost all persons reporting Spanish origin. About 97 percent of persons of Spanish origin, about 99 percent of persons of Mexican origin, and 96 percent of persons of Puerto Rican origin were classified white in this survey.

[3]Includes persons of Central or South American, Cuban, and other Spanish origin, not shown separately.

The unemployment rate for men of Spanish origin was 9 percent, about the same as for men of Negro and other races but higher than the 6 percent level for all white men. Among men in the oldest age group, 45 to 64 years old, the unemployment rate was higher for Spanish men than for white men. Although the same relationship seems to be true for Spanish and all white men in the two younger age groups, the number of sample cases was too small to determine whether or not these apparent differences were due only to sampling error. The unemployment rate for women of Negro and other races is higher than for white women and there is some evidence that the unemployment rate for women of Spanish origin is also higher than for all white women.

Table 8. Unemployment Rates for Persons 16 to 64 Years Old, by Age, Sex, and Ethnic Origin: March 1971

(Civilian noninstitutional population)

Age and sex	Total population			Spanish origin		
	All races[1]	White[2]	Negro and other races	Total[3]	Mexican	Puerto Rican
MALE						
Total, 16 to 64 years old..	6.0	5.6	9.1	8.6	10.1	10.0
16 to 24 years old.....	13.6	12.7	20.1	15.2	14.3	25.4
25 to 44 years old.....	4.4	4.2	5.9	6.3	7.1	5.0
45 to 64 years old.....	3.9	3.9	5.5	8.0	12.2	(B)
FEMALE						
Total, 16 to 64 years old..	7.0	6.5	10.4	9.2	10.1	10.6
16 to 24 years old.....	12.5	11.2	22.4	14.4	15.5	(B)
25 to 44 years old.....	6.1	5.8	7.9	8.4	8.9	(B)
45 to 64 years old.....	3.9	3.8	4.6	4.9	5.3	(B)

B Base less than 75,000.

[1]Includes persons of "other races," not shown separately.

[2]Includes almost all persons reporting Spanish origin. About 97 percent of persons of Spanish origin, about 99 percent of persons of Mexican origin, and 96 percent of persons of Puerto Rican origin were classified white in this survey.

[3]Includes persons of Central or South American, Cuban, and other Spanish origin, not shown separately.

The employment of men of Spanish origin was concentrated in lower paid jobs. About 23 percent of the men of Spanish origin worked in white collar jobs. The comparable rate for all whites was 44 percent. About 5 percent of men of Spanish origin were working as farm workers and 12 percent were working as laborers other than farm labor. Men of Negro and other races and men of Spanish origin were more likely than white men to be employed as service workers and less likely to be salesmen.

Table 9. Employed Men 16 Year Old and Over, by Major Occupation Group and Ethnic Origin: March 1971

(Numbers in thousands. Civilian noninstitutional population)

Occupation	Total population			Spanish origin		
	All races[1]	White[2]	Negro and other races	Total[3]	Mexican	Puerto Rican
Total employed.....	47,979	43,307	4,671	1,826	997	232
Percent.....	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
White-collar workers.....	41.7	43.9	22.0	23.2	18.2	19.8
Professional and technical.....	13.8	14.5	7.2	7.2	4.5	6.2
Mgrs., Admin., exc. farm.....	15.1	16.1	5.2	6.4	5.4	4.8
Sales workers.....	6.1	6.5	1.8	2.7	2.2	3.0
Clerical workers.....	6.8	6.7	7.7	6.9	6.2	5.8
Blue-collar workers.....	45.1	43.7	57.4	57.9	62.5	59.9
Craftsmen and kindred.....	19.5	20.2	13.1	18.2	19.7	13.3
Operatives, including transportation.....	18.4	17.6	26.7	27.6	27.7	33.4
Laborers, exc. farm.....	7.1	5.9	17.7	12.1	15.0	13.5
Farm workers.....	4.9	4.9	4.9	5.3	8.3	1.7
Farmers and farm managers.....	3.2	3.4	1.3	0.3	0.1	-
Farm laborers and foremen.....	1.7	1.5	3.6	5.0	8.2	1.7
Service workers.....	8.3	7.5	15.7	13.6	11.1	18.2

- Represents zero or rounds to zero.

[1]Includes persons of "other races," not shown separately.

[2]Includes almost all persons reporting Spanish origin. About 97 percent of persons of Spanish origin, about 99 percent of persons of Mexican origin, and 96 percent of persons of Puerto Rican origin were classified white in this survey.

[3]Includes persons of Central or South American, Cuban, and other Spanish origin, not shown separately.

The proportion of adults of Spanish origin who had completed less than 5 years of school was larger than that for the white population--about one of every five persons of Spanish origin 25 years old and over compared to one of every 25 for all white persons in the United States. Among young persons 25 to 29 years old about 48 percent of persons of Spanish origin had graduated from high school (including those who had attended college) compared to 58 percent of Negroes and 80 percent of whites in that age group.

Table 10. Percent of the Population 25 Years Old and Over Who Had Completed Less Than 5 Years of School or 4 Years of High School or More, by Ethnic Origin: March 1971

Years of school completed and age	Total population			Spanish origin		
	All races[1]	White[2]	Negro	Total[3]	Mexican	Puerto Rican
PERCENT COMPLETED LESS THAN 5 YEARS OF SCHOOL						
Total, 25 years old and over..	5.0	4.1	13.5	19.5	25.7	23.7
25 to 29 years old.....	1.1	1.1	1.8	5.8	6.6	9.3
30 to 34 years old.....	1.4	1.3	2.3	9.6	10.2	15.1
35 to 44 years old.....	2.6	2.3	5.4	18.1	25.5	20.3
45 to 54 years old.....	3.6	2.7	11.8	20.4	27.8	23.6
55 to 64 years old.....	5.9	4.3	22.3	38.1	54.6	49.0
65 years old and over.....	13.4	11.1	40.8	47.3	63.2	61.0
PERCENT COMPLETED 4 YEARS HIGH SCHOOL OR MORE						
Total, 25 years old and over..	56.4	58.6	34.7	32.6	26.3	19.8
25 to 29 years old.....	77.2	79.5	57.5	48.4	48.5	32.5
30 to 34 years old.....	72.9	75.1	53.8	41.8	41.4	21.8
35 to 44 years old.....	66.2	69.0	41.3	34.0	23.9	18.7
45 to 54 years old.....	58.7	61.7	29.1	24.5	14.9	16.3
55 to 64 years old.....	45.2	47.8	17.4	16.3	4.6	(B)
65 years old and over.....	29.3	30.8	11.3	15.1	6.7	(B)

B Base less than 75,000.

[1]Includes persons of "other races," not shown separately.

[2]Includes almost all persons reporting Spanish origin. About 97 percent of persons of Spanish origin, about 99 percent of persons of Mexican origin, and 96 percent of persons of Puerto Rican origin were classified white in this survey.

[3]Includes persons of Central or South American, Cuban, and other Spanish origin, not shown separately.

The composition of families was somewhat different for each ethnic group. Children made up a larger proportion of the members in families of Mexican origin than they did in Negro or white families. Negro families were more likely than families of Mexican origin to have relatives other than the head, wife, or child as family members living in the household, and white families were the least likely of all groups to have "other relatives" residing in the household.

Table 11. Family Relationship by Ethnic Origin: March 1971

(Numbers in thousands)

Family relationship	Total population			Spanish origin		
	All races[1]	White[2]	Negro	Total[3]	Mexican	Puerto Rican
Total family members.....	187,132	164,021	20,996	8,113	4,702	1,338
Percent.....	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Head.....	27.8	28.4	23.5	24.1	21.9	24.9
Male.....	24.6	25.7	16.3	20.0	19.3	16.4
Female.....	3.2	2.7	7.2	4.1	2.6	8.4
Wife of head.....	23.9	25.1	15.4	15.7	15.8	14.0
Child of head.....	43.7	42.9	49.2	53.9	56.6	52.8
Other relative.....	4.7	3.7	11.9	6.4	5.7	8.4

[1]Includes persons of "other races," not shown separately.

[2]Includes almost all persons reporting Spanish origin. About 97 percent of persons of Spanish origin, about 99 percent of persons of Mexican origin, and 96 percent of persons of Puerto Rican origin were classified white in this survey.

[3]Includes persons of Central or South American, Cuban, and other Spanish origin, not shown separately.

Three-fourths of the families with a head of Mexican origin had children under 18 years old living in the home compared with about one-half of all families in the United States. Although about 2 percent of all families had as many as six or more children, 8 percent of the families with a head of Mexican origin had families this large. Among families with heads of Mexican origin, 12 percent had a woman as the head; this is about the same as the proportion for all families in the United States. However, one-third of the families of Puerto Rican origin had a female head, about the same proportion as for Negro families.

Table 12. Families by Number of Own Children Under 18, Sex of Head, and Ethnic Origin: March 1971

(Numbers in thousands)

Number of own children	Total population			Spanish origin		
	All races[1]	White[2]	Negro	Total[3]	Mexican	Puerto Rican
Total families	51,948	46,535	4,928	1,956	1,031	333
Percent	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
No own children under 18	44.6	45.3	38.8	28.5	24.3	26.4
With own children under 18	55.4	54.7	61.2	71.5	75.7	73.6
1 own child	18.5	18.4	19.1	18.6	18.5	18.8
2 own children	17.2	17.4	14.5	19.0	17.6	21.7
3 own children	10.4	10.3	10.3	13.6	13.8	17.2
4 own children	5.2	4.9	7.5	8.5	9.4	8.1
5 own children	2.3	2.1	4.3	6.2	8.2	4.6
6 or more children	1.9	1.5	5.5	5.5	8.3	3.3
Percent of families with female head	11.5	9.4	30.6	16.9	12.0	33.9

[1] Includes persons of "other races," not shown separately.

[2] Includes almost all persons reporting Spanish origin. About 97 percent of persons of Spanish origin, about 99 percent of persons of Mexican origin, and 96 percent of persons of Puerto Rican origin were classified white in this survey.

[3] Includes persons of Central or South American, Cuban, and other Spanish origin, not shown separately.

The marital status of men and women of Spanish origin was very similar to that of all whites but quite different from Negroes. About 11 percent of the men of Spanish origin had never married, which was about the same as the figure for whites, but was lower than that for Negroes (16 percent).

The proportion of women of Spanish origin who never married was about the same as for white women (7 percent and 6 percent, respectively) but was higher than for Negro women (11 percent).

Men of Mexican and Puerto Rican origin were less likely to be divorced than were white or Negro men. Divorce was also less likely among white women and women of Mexican origin than among Negro women.

Table 13. Marital Status by Ethnic Origin: March 1971

(Number in thousands)

Marital status and sex	Total population			Spanish origin		
	All races[1]	White[2]	Negro	Total[3]	Mexican	Puerto Rican
MALE						
25 to 64 years old	43,884	39,343	4,040	1,693	915	223
Percent single	10.0	9.3	15.6	11.4	9.7	13.0
Percent married, spouse present	82.1	84.0	66.4	78.8	81.0	79.8
Divorced per 1,000 currently married	35	39	60	25	16	5
FEMALE						
25 to 64 years old	46,652	41,389	4,742	1,801	892	307
Percent single	6.5	6.0	10.8	7.3	6.2	5.9
Percent married, spouse present	76.6	79.1	54.9	71.6	77.9	57.0
Divorced per 1,000 currently married	62	57	108	74	50	111

[1]Includes persons of "other races," not shown separately.

[2]Includes almost all persons reporting Spanish origin. About 97 percent of persons of Spanish origin, about 99 percent of persons of Mexican origin, and 96 percent of persons of Puerto Rican origin were classified white in this survey.

[3]Includes persons of Central or South American, Cuban, and other Spanish origin, not shown separately.

Source and Reliability of the Estimates

Source of data. The estimates for 1970 and 1971 are based on data obtained in March 1971 in the Current Population Survey of the Bureau of the Census. The sample is spread over 449 areas comprising 863 counties and independent cities with coverage in each of the 50 states and the District of Columbia. Approximately 50,000 occupied households are eligible for interview each month. Of this number, 2,250 occupied units, on the average, are visited but interviews are not obtained because the occupants are not found at home after repeated calls or are unavailable for some other reason. In addition to the 50,000, there are also about 8,500 sample units in an average month which are visited but are found to be vacant or otherwise not to be interviewed.

The estimating procedure used in the Current Population Survey involves the inflation of the weighted sample results to independent estimates of the civilian noninstitutional population of the United States by age, race, and sex. These independent estimates are based on statistics from the 1960 Census of Population; statistics of births, deaths, immigration and emigration; and statistics on the strength of the Armed Forces.

Reliability of the estimates. Estimates based on a sample may differ somewhat from the figures obtained if a complete census had been taken using the same schedules, instructions, and enumerators. As in any survey work, the results are subject to errors of response and of reporting as well as being subject to sampling variability.

The standard error is primarily a measure of sampling variability; that is, of the variations that occur by chance because a sample rather than the whole of the population is surveyed. The standard error also partially measures the effect of response and enumeration errors but does not measure any systematic biases in the data. The chances are about 68 out of 100 that an estimate differs from a complete census figure by less than the standard error. The chances are about 90 out of 100 that this difference would be less than 1.6 times the standard error, and the chances are about 95 out of 100 that the difference would be less than twice the standard error. All statements of comparison appearing in the text are significant at a 1.6 standard error level or better. Most are significant at a level of more than 2.0 standard errors. Thus, for most differences cited in the text, the estimated difference is greater than twice the standard error of the difference. Statements of comparison qualified in some way (e.g., by use of the phrase "some evidence") have a level of significance between 1.6 and 2.0 standard errors.

Sampling errors for estimated totals and percentages pertaining to the total or white population are shown in tables A and C. Corresponding sampling errors for Negroes and other races are shown in tables B and D. Sampling errors for persons and families of Spanish origin are obtained from tables F and G for some types of data and from tables A, C, and E for other items.

Table A. Standard Errors of Estimated Numbers, Total or White Population

(68 chances out of 100)

Size of estimate	Standard error	Size of estimate	Standard error
25,000.....	7,000	2,500,000..	71,000
50,000.....	10,000	5,000,000..	100,000
100,000.....	14,000	10,000,000.	138,000
250,000.....	23,000	25,000,000.	204,000
500,000.....	32,000	50,000,000.	253,000
1,000,000...	45,000		

Table B. Standard Errors of Estimated Numbers, Negro and Other Races

(68 chances out of 100)

Size of estimate	Standard error	Size of estimate	Standard error
10,000.....	5,000	250,000....	26,000
25,000.....	8,000	500,000....	37,000
35,000.....	10,000	1,000,000..	51,000
50,000.....	12,000	2,500,000..	76,000
75,000.....	14,000	5,000,000..	96,000
100,000.....	17,000	10,000,000.	96,000

The figures presented in all the standard error tables are approximations to the standard errors of various estimates shown

Table C. Standard Errors of Estimated Percentages, Total or White

(68 chances out of 100)

Estimated percentage	Base of percentage (thousands)									
	100	250	500	1,000	2,500	5,000	10,000	25,000	50,000	100,000
2 or 98....	2.0	1.3	0.9	0.6	0.4	0.3	0.2	0.1	0.1	0.1
5 or 95....	3.1	2.0	1.4	1.0	0.6	0.4	0.3	0.2	0.1	0.1
10 or 90...	4.3	2.7	1.9	1.4	0.9	0.6	0.4	0.3	0.2	0.1
25 or 75...	6.2	3.9	2.8	2.0	1.2	0.9	0.6	0.4	0.3	0.2
50.....	7.2	4.5	3.2	2.3	1.4	1.0	0.7	0.5	0.3	0.2

Table D. Standard Errors of Estimated Percentages, Negro and Other Races

(68 chances out of 100)

Estimated percentage	Base of percentage (thousands)							
	50	100	250	500	1,000	2,500	5,000	10,000
2 or 98.....	3.3	2.3	1.5	1.0	0.7	0.5	0.3	0.2
5 or 95.....	5.1	3.6	2.3	1.6	1.2	0.7	0.5	0.4
10 or 90.....	7.1	5.0	3.2	2.2	1.6	1.0	0.7	0.5
25 or 75.....	10.2	7.2	4.6	3.2	2.3	1.4	1.0	0.7
50.....	11.8	8.4	5.3	3.7	2.6	1.7	1.2	0.8

in this report. In order to derive standard errors applicable to a wide variety of items that could be prepared at a moderate cost, a number of approximations were required. As a result, the tables of standard errors provided are an indication of the order of magnitude rather than the precise standard error for any specific item. As calculated for this report, the standard error also partially measures the effect of response and interviewer errors but does not measure any systematic biases in the data.

The reliability of an estimated percentage, computed by using sample data for both numberator and denominator, depends upon the size of the percentage and the size of the total upon which the percentage is based.

Estimated percentages are relatively more reliable than the corresponding estimates of the numerators of the percentages, particularly if the percentages are 50 percent or more.

Table E presents factors which are to be applied to the figures in tables A, B, C and D, to produce sampling errors for the various subject matter areas. For example, to produce approximate sampling errors for total or white estimates for an income subject, multiply the appropriate figure in tables A or C by the factor 1.1.

Tables F and G show standard errors for estimates and percentages for family and household characteristics, for marital status, and for age-sex categories pertaining to Spanish ethnic origin. Other characteristics associated with Spanish ethnic origin (income, employment, education, and poverty statistics) should be obtained by use of the sampling errors in tables A and C and using the factors in table E.

Illustration of the use of tables of standard errors. Table 4 of this report shows that in 1970, there were 1,796,000 males of Spanish origin who had income. Table A shows the

standard error on an estimate of 1,796,000 to be approximately 59,000. Table E shows the factor for estimates for persons of Spanish origin for income data is 1.1. Applying this factor, the standard error on an estimate of this size for income data for persons of Spanish origin is found to be approximately 65,000. This means the chances are 68 out of 100 that the estimate would have been a figure differing from a complete census figure by less than 65,000. The chances are 95 out of 100 that the estimate would have been a figure differing from a complete census figure by less than 130,000.

Table E. Factors to be Applied to Sampling Errors in Tables A, B, C, and D for Types of Data

Type of data	Factor for estimates of--	
	Persons	Families
Spanish Ethnic Origin	(Factors to be applied to tables A and C)	
Educational attainment.	1.2	-
Employment and unemployment.....	1.1	-
Income.....	1.1	1.1
Poverty.....	2.2	1.1
Other estimates.....	See tables F and G.	
Total or White	(Factors to be applied to tables A and C)	
Educational attainment.	1.0	-
Employment and unemployment.....	0.9	-
Income.....	1.1	1.1
Poverty.....	2.2	1.1
Marital and family status, and household and family characteristics.....	0.9	0.7
Ethnic origin (other than Spanish).....	1.5	-
Negro and Other Races	(Factors to be applied to tables B and D)	
Educational attainment.	1.0	-
Employment and unemployment.....	0.9	-
Income.....	1.1	1.1
Poverty.....	2.2	1.1
Marital and family status, and household and family characteristics.....	0.9	0.7

Of these 1,796,000 males, 309,000 or 17.2 percent, had income of less than $3,000. Interpolation in table C shows the standard error of 17.2 percent on a base of 1,796,000 to be approximately 1.3 percentage points. Table E shows the factor for percentages for persons of Spanish origin for income data is 1.1. Applying this factor to the 1.3 percent figure, the standard error of 17.2 percent on a base of 1,796,000 for income data for persons of Spanish origin is estimated at about 1.4 percentage points. Consequently, chances are 68 out of 100 that the estimated 17.2 percent would be within 1.4 percentage points of a complete census figure and chances are 95 out of 100 that the estimate would be within 2.8 percentage points of a census figure; i.e., this 95 percent confidence interval would be from 14.4 to 20.0.

Table F. Standard Errors of Estimated Numbers for Selected Spanish Ethnic Origin Characteristics (Marital Status, Family and Household, and Age-Sex Categories)

(68 chances out of 100)

Size of estimate	Standard error	Size of estimate	Standard error
10,000.....	7,000	500,000....	54,000
25,000.....	12,000	1,000,000..	80,000
50,000.....	17,000	2,500,000..	141,000
100,000.....	24,000	5,000,000..	228,000
250,000.....	38,000	10,000,000.	393,000

Table G. Standard Errors of Estimated Percentages for Selected Spanish Ethnic Origin Characteristics (Marital Status, Family and Household, and Age-Sex Categories)

(68 chances out of 100)

Estimated percentage	Base of percentage (thousands)										
	100	250	500	1,000	2,500	5,000	10,000	25,000	50,000	100,000	200,000
2 or 98.....	3.3	2.1	1.5	1.0	0.7	0.5	0.3	0.2	0.1	0.1	0.1
5 or 95.....	5.1	3.2	2.3	1.6	1.0	0.7	0.5	0.3	0.2	0.2	0.1
10 or 90....	7.0	4.4	3.1	2.2	1.4	1.0	0.7	0.4	0.3	0.2	0.2
25 or 75....	10.1	6.4	4.5	3.2	2.0	1.4	1.0	0.6	0.5	0.3	0.2
50.....	11.6	7.4	5.2	3.7	2.3	1.7	1.2	0.7	0.5	0.4	0.3

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